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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/767,225	01/28/2004	Yi-Lung Kuo	23724-07838	2599

7590 03/19/2007
YI-LUNG KUO
5F NO. 51, JENG RUNG ST.
KEELING,
TAIWAN

EXAMINER

HAWK, NOAH CHANDLER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3636

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/19/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/767,225	Applicant(s) KUO, YI-LUNG	
	Examiner Noah C. Hawk	Art Unit 3636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/14/06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7 and 9-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7,9 and 22-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 November 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

Applicant's submission filed on 11/14/06 has been entered.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because: the exploded detail in figure 1 must be shown in a separate figure or enlarged in the figure. Solid black shading (found in Figure 1) is not permitted. The font used for the "Figure X" label must be larger than that used for reference numbers in the figure. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several

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views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 1, 3-7, 9, and 22-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the cover plate including a window that allows access to a at least one of the drives when the cover plate is in the closed position." In Figure 2 of the applicant's specification, the cover plate and window are both shown closed and there is no way to access any of the drives covered thereby. It is unclear how the applicant intends for the cover plate or window to allow access to a subset of the drives.

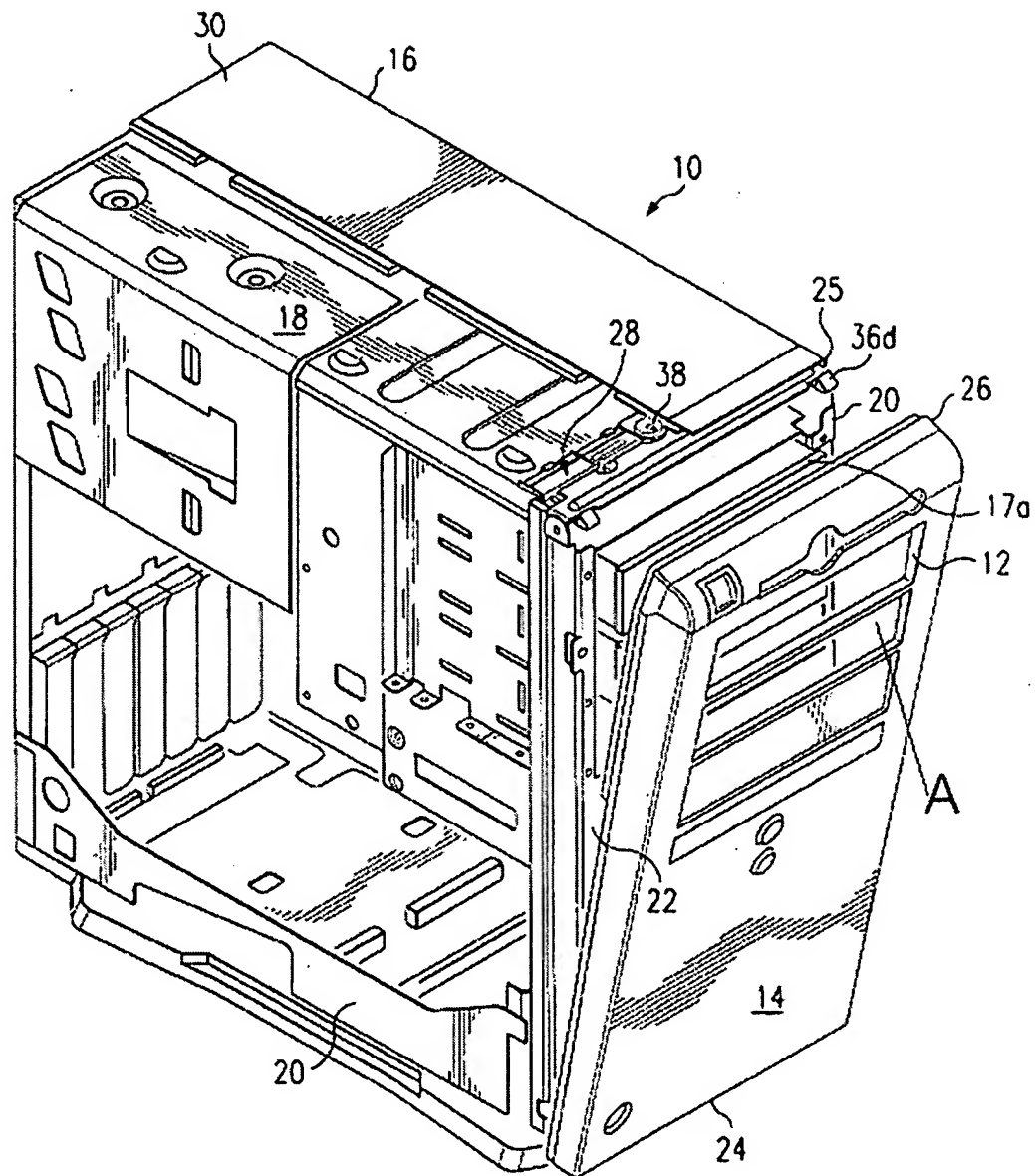
Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 4 and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Radloff et al. in US Patent 5997115 in view of Dong in US Publication 2002/0027771.

a. Regarding Claims 1 and 4, Radloff teaches a face plate apparatus comprising an opaque cover plate (14) having a window (A) and a mechanism ("pivotally attached" see Column 3, lines 14) for rotatably coupling the cover plate to a computer chassis (10) about a first axis (a horizontal axis). Radloff fails to teach a drive door to cover the window. Dong teaches a drive door (14) rotatable about a second (horizontal) axis and covering a window (12) in a cover plate (10) to further protect the drives underneath. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Radloff by adding a drive door as taught by Dong in order to further protect the drives under the cover plate.



Radloff et al., Figure 2

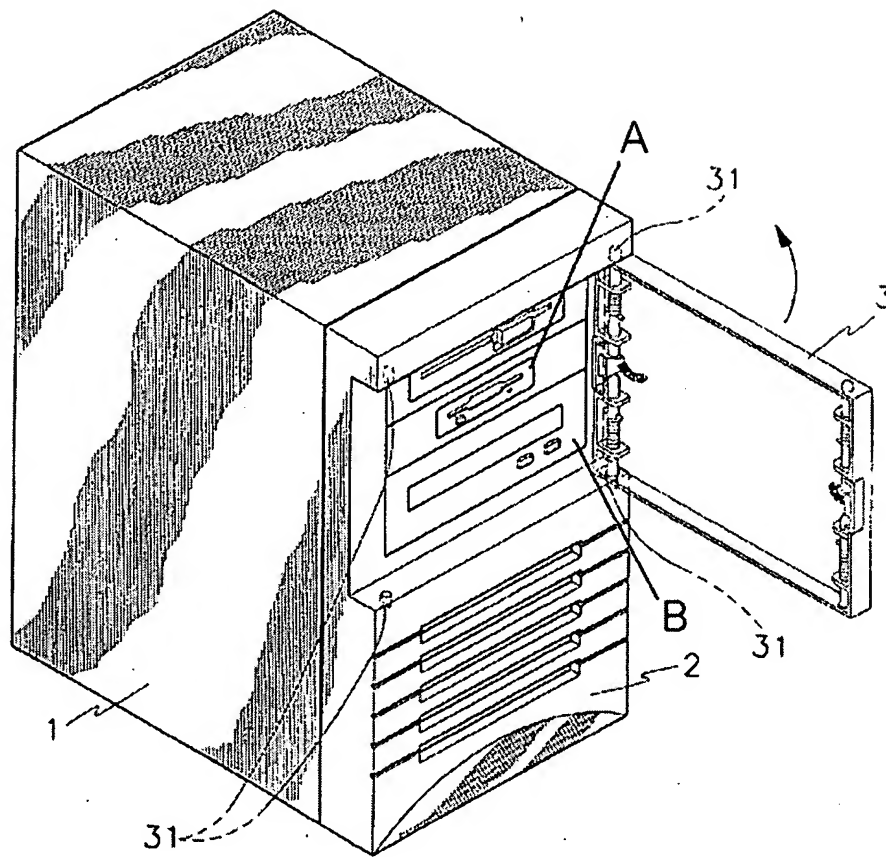
- b. Regarding Claim 24, Radloff, as modified, further teaches that the cover plate is detachably coupled to the computer chassis in the closed position by a locking mechanism (latch 28).

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- c. Regarding Claim 25, Radloff, as modified, further teaches that the cover plate allows access to a CD or DVD drive ("mass storage device 17": CD and/or DVD drives are well-known as mass storage devices for computers).
 - d. Regarding Claims 26, 27 and 28, Radloff, as modified, further teaches that the computer chassis comprises a front outer panel (22) to which the cover plate attaches having a plurality of windows (through which drives 17 protrude).
7. Claims 3 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Radloff, as modified, as applied to Claim 1 above in view of Stapf in US Patent 5924757. As stated above, Radloff, as modified, discloses all of the limitations of Claim 1 including a face plate apparatus but does not disclose a geared mechanism to slow the motion of the drive door. Stapf discloses a door (2) connected to a damper mechanism (8) via a set of engaged gears (a rack, 12 on the door is connected to a pinion, 10, on the damper). Stapf also discloses the use of a spring to open a cover ("may be kept in the ... open position by means of spring force" – See Column 1, lines 21-22) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Radloff, as modified, by using a damping mechanism having a set of engaged gears as taught by Stapf in order to prevent the drive door from opening or closing too fast and to use a spring to hold the cover plate in the open position in order to allow easier access behind the cover plate.

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8. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Radloff, as modified, as applied to claim 1 above, in view of Lee et al. in US Patent 5926916. Radloff, as modified, fails to teach that the plurality of interfaces comprises a 3-½ inch and a 5-¼ inch drive or that the drive door conceals the 5-¼ inch drive. Lee et al. discloses a face plate apparatus concealing an interface for a 3 ½-inch drive (A) and an interface for a 5 ¼-inch drive (B) and a drive door (3) that, while in a closed position, is configured to conceal an interface for a 5 ¼-inch drive (B). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Radloff, as modified, by using the face plate apparatus to conceal 3 ½ inch and 5 ¼ inch drives and to use a drive door to conceal a 5 ¼ inch drive as taught by Lee et al. in order to protect the drives and allow the user to access the drive more easily.



Lee et al., Figure 2

9. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Radloff, as modified, as applied to Claim 1 above in view of Della Fiora et al. in US Patent 6125031. As stated above, Radloff, as modified, discloses all of the limitations of Claim 1 including a face plate apparatus but does not disclose a second cover plate. Della Fiora '031 discloses a second cover plate (36) for concealing a plurality of port interfaces (28) of a computer while in a closed position (Best seen in Della Fiora '031, Figure 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of

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Radloff, as modified by adding a second cover to conceal a port interface of a computer as taught by Della Fiora '031 in order to protect the port interfaces of a computer.

10. Claims 9 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Radloff, as modified as applied to Claim 6 above in view of Della Fiora et al. in US Patent 6125031. As stated above, Radloff, as modified, discloses all of the limitations of Claim 6 including a face plate apparatus but does not disclose a second cover plate. Della Fiora '031 discloses a second cover plate (36) rotating about a third (horizontal) axis for concealing a plurality of ports (28) while in a closed position (Best seen in Della Fiora '031, Figure 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Radloff, as modified, by adding a second cover to conceal a port interface of a computer as taught by Della Fiora'031 in order to protect the port interfaces of a computer.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-7 and 9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Noah C. Hawk whose telephone number is 571-272-1480. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am to 5:30pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Dunn can be reached on 571-272-6670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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3/12/07

DAVID DUNN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER